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that if it be comparatively dry, it will attract moisture from the ivory ball, which will consequently shrink and become less capacious, and squeeze the mercury up into the tube; but if, on the contrary, the atmosphere be more humid than the ball, that it will necessarily be enlarged, and thus cause a descent of the mercury.

The following method of producing artificial cold, of apparently an almost indefinite degree of intensity, has been offered to the notice of chemical experimenters. Let a strong cylinder be filled with air, which, by an accurate piston, is subjected to a very considerable pressure; then let the cylinder and its contents be cooled as much as possible, by exposing them to a powerful frigorific mixture, and in this state allow the air to make its escape suddenly through a convenient orifice into a very large exhausted receiver, containing within it the substance to be cooled. In this way, a very enormous reduction of temperature may be, by proper apparatus, easily effected; and since the degree of pressure on the air originally within the cylinder may be almost infinitely increased, it is evident, that the degree of cold which by these means may be produced, is also almost infinite.

Monthly Magazine.

Newly Invented Patent Life-preserver.

(Forming a mattress or bed.)

A most important invention, to sea-faring people and others. A gentleman of Gibraltar, has, within these few months, brought to effect an invention of great national importance, for which a patent has lately been obtained. The proprietors are now, therefore, enabled to announce to the public in general, and particularly to those whose professions and pursuits require them to go to sea, that they can offer them the extraordinary advantage of possessing, in the simple character of a bed, a complete and perfect Life-preserver. It has, in every respect, the same appearance, and affords the same comfort as an ordinary mattress; but being stuffed with a composition, which has an undoubted principle of buoyancy, that no length of time in the water lessens, it becomes, in consequence, the certain means of preserving life in cases of shipwreck. The simplicity of its construction renders it capable of being firmly fixed on the body in less than two minutes, and, when on, it does not obstruct a seaman from performing his duty on deck, or in boats; it is also a great protection from external violence, both for the head and body.

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